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ABSTRACT

The bibliography lists 159 references thought to be historically important publications in special education. The list was compiled from surveys completed by over 400 prominent special educators. Citations, which span the years 1688 to 1965, are presented alphabetically by author's last name and include information on title, source, date, and publisher. (CL)

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Historically Important Publications in Special Education:

A Bibliography

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Preface

Although some precursors existed as early as the middle ages (some say even earlier), special education as a recognized discipline in its present form has existed for about 30 years. A written history that reflects the origins of special education does not exist and there is no collected documentation of the works that shaped the field.

This lack was dramatized several years ago at a national conference when a doctoral student excitedly described some "new" pedagogical techniques to a fellow graduate student. In fact, the developer of the techniques, Maria Montessori, had done and published much of her work early in this century! Since the time of the conference, we have encountered numerous situations that would have developed more fruitfully had a knowledge of the antecedents and history of special education been known.

Several years ago approximately 500 prominent special educators were surveyed for assistance in developing a bibliography of historically important publications in special education. The process of responding was very enlightening. Of course, many people did not respond. Some responded only to say they were too busy to respond. However, many of the individuals who had achieved true prominence, who were recognized as major contributors to the discipline, took the time to prepare comprehensive bibliographies; some with extensive commentary. Clearly, these individuals went far beyond what was requested.

Some respondees gave one pause to consider how well our language communicates, or how one's "ego" affects what one reads. For example, in response to our request for books or articles that were historically important and that had significant effect on the field, one individual suggested a book she had written that would be published the following year!

Several hundred books and articles were suggested which were compiled in a preliminary bibliography and the complete list mailed to the original contributors for reaction, expansion and deletion. With the returns from this mailing, a revised list was prepared and mailed again. Over 400 individuals responded to this third request. The attached bibliography, which has been widely used in th U.S. and abroad, is the result.

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